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D 1
thereby bending the sheet of glass complementarily to the shaping surface areas

2. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said suction chambers include a central suction chamber having a flat shaping surface area and a pair of opposite side suction chambers disposed one on each side of said central suction chamber and having respective curved shaping surface areas, said step of developing vacuums comprising the steps of:

B
developing a vacuum in said central suction chamber to attract a central area of the sheet of glass against the flat shaping surface area thereof; and

[thereafter] at the same time that the central area of the sheet of glass is attracted, developing a vacuum in said opposite side suction chambers to attract opposite side areas of the sheet of glass respectively against the curved shaping surface areas.

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(AMENDED) A method of shaping a sheet of glass heated nearly to a softening point thereof with the shaping surface areas of a plurality of divided suction chambers defined in a suction mold, the shaping surface areas having suction holes defined therein, comprising the steps of:

introducing a vacuum into one of the suction chambers to attract [an] a first area of the sheet of glass against the

sub 2
shaping surface area of said one of the suction chambers through the suction holes thereof; and

[thereafter] at the same time as the first area of the sheet of glass is attracted, introducing a vacuum into another of the suction chambers to attract another area of the sheet of glass against the shaping surface area of said other of the suction chambers through the suction holes thereof.)

Please insert new claim 5 as follows:

sub 3
5 (NEW) A method according to claim 2, wherein said ring mold is maintained spaced from said curved shaping surfaces while vacuum is developed in said side suction chambers and ends of the sheet of glass are pulled away from said ring mold.

Remarks

Applicants have carefully read and considered the Office Action dated July 6, 1994, and the references cited therein. Claims 1, 2 and 4 have now been amended and new claim 5 has been added to further distinguish over the prior art.

In the Action, claims 1, 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Seymour.

Claim 1 has been amended to state that the sheet of glass is placed in a ring mold and further stating that the bending step includes lowering the suction mold to an extent that the surface areas come close to the sheet of glass on the ring mold. This is neither shown nor suggested by the Seymour